GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:339
ANSWERED ON:23.12.2004
IMPORT OF NEWSPRINT
Shaheen Shri Abdul Rashid

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the newsprint is being imported by various small & medium newspapers;

(b) if so, the quantity imported by Small & Medium newspapers during the last three years;

(c) whether the production of newsprint, in the country is less than the demand of the small & medium scale newspapers; and

(d) if so, the steps taken to increase production of newsprint in the country?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY)

(a), (b), (c) & (d) : A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 339 FOR REPLY ON 23.12.2004

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Registrar of Newspapers for India (RNI) does not maintain details of import of newsprint on the basis of categorization of newspapers into small, medium and big. However, on the basis of annual statements filed by the newspapers, which include Small & Medium Newspapers, the details of the total quantity of newsprint imported are as under:

(Quantity in Metric Tonnes)

Year	Standard	Glazed	Total
2001-02	3,67,955	34,940	4,02,895
2002-03	4,69,125	57,353	5,26,478
2003-04	5,36,431	40,241	5,76,672#

(# Annual Statements received by RNI till November 2004)

(c) The production of newsprint paper during the last four years is as under:-

(In Lakh Tonnes)

YEAR	INSTALLED CAPACITY	PRODUCTION	IMPORT
2001-2002	12.04	6.20	4.44
2002-2003	12.25	6.27	5.20
2003-2004	12.69	6.88	7.39

2004-2005 12.70 3.99 (upto 1.93 (upto
October, 2004) July,2004)

(d) Steps taken by the Government to increase newsprint production in the country include:

(i) delicensing of newsprint industry;

(ii) duty free import of pulp for manufacture of newsprint; and

(iii) excise duty exemption of the newsprint manufactured by the mills included in Schedule-I to the Newsprint Control Order, 2004.